(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) 20 cases (8 old & 12 received during 1995-96).

(b) After preliminary investigations only one Group A officer was found involved and departmental proceedings have been initiated against him. Preliminary investigation in respect of two Group B Officers is under process.

(c) 12 cases received and got preliminary investigated departmentally. Complaints found not substantiated in 10 cases on preliminary investation & hence closed. Complaint in one case closed due to death of the officer against whom received. Departmental proceedings initiated in one case.

(d) Normally action is initiated by Vigilance Section on complaints, but it can also initiate action if a malpractice or misconduct of its employees is noticed through its own system of intelligence.

(e) and (f) Functioning of the Vigilance Section in the Ministry has been reviewed recently and the Annual Action Plan for the year 1997-98 on vigilance and anti corruption measures drawn by Department of Personnel & Training has been adopted by the Ministry. The Action Plan broadly covers preventive vigilance; surveillance and detection and deterrent punitive action. Several steps have been initiated to strengthen the vigilance machinery in the Ministry as a follow up to the Action Plan, such as identification of sensitive posts and rotational posting thereon and identification of corruption prone areas etc.

Loss by Calcutta Metro Railways

390. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RUP CHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Metro Railway has incurred a loss of Rs.18.64 crores during 1996-97 as against Rs.13.78 crores during 1995-96, while the number of passengers on the Metro has gone up during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

((c) the sale amount of passenger tickets turn-out in 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Calcutta Metro;

(d) the working expenses of Metro Railway during the same period category-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to cut down loss in the Calcutta Mertro ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Calcutta Metro has incurred a loss of Rs.19.77 crore in 1996-97 as against Rs.13.78 crore during 1995-96.

The losses have increased on account of increase in the fixed and the variable components of the cost of Metro operations as also increase in the number of train services.

(c) The revenue earnings on account of sale of tickets etc. is as under :

Year	No. of Passengers (in crores)	Earnings (in crore of Rs.)
1995-96	4.33	11.70
1996-97	6.26	17.42

(d) Working expenses are as under :

(in crore of Rupees)

Year	Gross working expenses	Appropriation to pension reserve fund	Net working expenses	Main categories of working expenses		
				Staff	Energy	Maintenanc
1995-96	25.48	3.23	22.25	6.78	11.02	2.20
1996-97	37.19	4.15	33.04	10.92	14.96	3.01

(e) (i) The fare structure is proposed to be revised.

(ii) State Government has been approached for rationalisation of bus routes along Metro corridor to eliminate unhealthy competition and to optimise the utilisation of assets.

(iii) State Government has been requested to restore the concessional rate for electrical energy which was withdrawn since November, 1996.

(iv) To utilise the space available at Metro Stations and outside for advertisement and other commercial use.

Losses Suffered by Doordarshan

391. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sponsors of news-based programmes "Aaj Tak" and "To Night" programme were liberally allowed Free Commercial Time (F.C.T.) during July 17, 1996 to October, 1996 and February, 1995 to September, 1996 respectively;

(b) if so, the losses suffered during the above period;

(c) whether the issue has been probed into and the defaulters brought to book ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1996 has brought out in its paragraph No. 11.1 and 11.2 on the programmes News Tonight and 'Aaj Tak' that undue benefit to the producers of these programmes by granting extra Free Commercial Time (FCT) has resulted in loss of Rs.5.38 crore and Rs.6.60 crore, respectively, to Doordarshan.

The matter relating to granting of extra FCT to 'Aaj Tak' based on CAG report referred to above is presently under examination of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The issue of undue favour granted to some programmes by Doordarshan including 'News Tonight' produced by M/s NDTV has also been included in the CAG Report for the year ended 31st March,1996. This matter was also examined by the PAC. The Committee in its Report submitted ot the Los Sabha on 22nd April, 1997 have recommended that the matter should be entrusted to an appropriate Investigative Agency to be decided by the Cabinet Secreatry for a thorough enquiry. Accordingly, the matter has been entrusted to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

Delegation of Powers to DRM

392. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of farmers taken water supply pipe lines under Railway lines for minor irrigation purposes without any Government sanction in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether there is inordinate delay in granting sanction to farmers to cross water pipe for irrigation;

(c) whether this is basically due to time consuming process for according sanction by the Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to delegate powers to Divisional Railway Managers for according sanction for the purpose;

(e) if so, the time by which powers are likely to be delegated to Divisional Railway Managers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Existing procedure is being considered adequate.

Corporate Plan for Air India

393. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has formulated a Comprehensive and long term corporate plan;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by which date it is likely to be laid in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (d) Air India is in the process of fornulating a corporate plan, which will have short, medium and long-term components. The plan is likely to be finalised by the end of December, 1997.

[Translation]

Departure Rescheduled

394. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the departure time of Bhagalpur-Kurla Express has been rescheduled; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) 3447 Bhagalpur-Kurla Express was rescheduled from 01.10.96 to leave Bhagalpur at 09.15 hrs. instead of 17.00 hrs. essentially as a part of reorganisation of trains from Bihar to Mumbai wherein daily services were provided between Patna and Muzaffarpur to Kurla and the four days a week service from Bhagalpur to Kurla rescheduled as a Bhagalpur to Dadar service.

[English]

Railway Projects

395. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway have proposed projects worth over Rs.8000/- crore for the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs during the current year;